

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Calyptrorhynchus banksii naso* (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo)**

(s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

This Conservation Advice has been developed based on the best available information at the time this Conservation Advice was approved; this includes existing plans, records or management prescriptions for this species.

**Description**

*Calyptrorhynchus banksii naso*, Family Cacatuidae, also known as the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (south-western) is 55 to 60 cm in length and 570 to 870 g in weight. Males and females are mostly glossy black with a pair of black central tail feathers, a crest, robust beak and bright red, orange or yellow barring in the tail. The male is distinguished by broad red tail panels that are only visible when alighting. The female is distinguished by yellow or whitish spots on the feathers of the head and upper wing. Their tail feathers are bright red and orange, grading to yellow on the inner margins, and have variable black horizontal barring. Females have yellow or orange barring on the tips of the feathers of the throat, breast, belly and under-tail coverts and a light grey beak with a dark grey tip. The juvenile is similar to the adult female but has a white eye-ring (Johnstone and Storr, 1998; Higgins, 1999).

There are five subspecies of *Calyptrorhynchus banksii*. They are found in all Australian states and territories except the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo differs from its nearest geographical subspecies *C. b. samuelii* by having a significantly longer and wider bill and the female Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo has less yellow on the breast feathers (Ford, 1980).

**Conservation Status**

*Calyptrorhynchus banksii naso* is listed as **vulnerable**. This species is eligible for listing as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) as, in 2008, the Minister considered the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's (TSSC) advice under section 189 of the EPBC Act and amended the list under section 184 to include *Calyptrorhynchus banksii naso* (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo). The TSSC determined that this species met Criterion One of the criteria identified in the *EPBC Act Regulations 2000* (TSSC, 2008). The species is also listed as fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct under Schedule 1 of the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

The two other subspecies which occur in Western Australia, *C. banksii macrorhynchus* and *C. banksii samuelii* are not listed under the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* or the *EPBC Act 1999*. The subspecies *C. banksii banksii* is not listed as threatened under any Australian legislation.

The threatened status of the species and other subspecies throughout Australia is:

- *C. banksii* (Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo) is listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.
- *C. banksii graptogyne* (South Eastern Forest Red Tail Black Cockatoo) is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and the South Australian *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. In Victoria this subspecies is listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria, 2003* and as threatened under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

### **Distribution and Habitat**

The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is endemic to the south-west humid and sub-humid zones of Western Australia (Mawson and Johnstone, 1997).

In 2006, the subspecies' distribution was north of Perth and east to Mount Helena, Christmas Tree Well, North Banister, Mt Saddleback, Rocky Gully and the upper King River (Johnstone, 1997).

The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo occurs in one population of approximately 15,000 individuals (Abbott, 1998; Johnstone and Kirkby, 1999). In 2006, the extent of occurrence was estimated to be approximately 66 500 km<sup>2</sup> (CALM, 2006).

The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo inhabits the dense *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah), *E. diversicolor* (Karri) and *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) forests receiving more than 600mm of annual average rainfall (Saunders et al., 1985; Saunders and Ingram, 1995).

Similar to *C. baudinii* (Baudin's Cockatoo), the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo nests in the large hollows of Marri, Jarrah and Karri (Johnstone and Kirkby, 1999).

This subspecies occurs within the South Coast, South West and Swan Natural Resource Management Regions in Western Australia.

The distribution of this subspecies is not known to overlap with any EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological community. However, the subspecies is associated with the endangered cockatoo *C. baudinii* (Baudin's Black-Cockatoo), as it occurs within the same habitat.

### **Threats**

The main identified threats to the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo are illegal shooting, habitat loss, nest hollow shortage and competition from other species, and injury or death from *Apis mellifera* (European Honeybees) (Chapman, 2005).

### **Research Priorities**

Research priorities that would inform future regional and local priority actions include:

- Continue to develop and test effective means of removing European Honeybee hives that have established in key breeding areas and work to keep the area free of European Honeybees.
- Identify factors affecting the number of breeding attempts and breeding success and manage nest hollows to increase recruitment.
- Support and enhance the Cockatoo Care monitoring program or any existing monitoring programs.
- More precisely assess population size and the relative impacts of threatening processes.
- Map feeding and breeding habitat critical to survival and prepare management guidelines for these habitats.

### **Regional Priority Actions**

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

#### **Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Determine and implement ways to minimise the effects of mining on habitat loss.
- Determine and implement ways to manage forests for the conservation of the subspecies.

### Animal Predation or Competition

- Develop and implement a management plan for the control and reduction of non-managed European Honeybees in the region.

### Other

- Develop and implement a communication strategy to stop illegal shooting of Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and improve compliance with the relevant legislation.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

### **Existing Plans/Management Prescriptions that are Relevant to the Species**

Forest Black Cockatoo (Baudin's Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) Draft Recovery Plan, June 2005-June 2015.

These prescriptions were current at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

### **Information Sources:**

Abbott I (1998). Conservation of the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, a hollow-dependent species, in the eucalypt forests of Western Australia. *Forest Ecology and Management* 109, 175-185.

CALM (2006). Records held in CALM's Threatened Fauna Database and rare fauna files. Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management.

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Ford J (1980). Morphological and ecological divergence and convergence in isolated populations of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. *Emu* 80, 103-120.

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Johnstone RE (1997). Current studies on three endemic Western Australian Cockatoos. *Eclectus* 3, 34-35.

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Saunders DA, Rowley I and Smith GT (1985). The effects of clearing for agriculture on the distribution of cockatoos in the southwest of Western Australia. In 'Birds of Eucalypt Forests and Woodlands: Ecology, Conservation and Management'. (Eds A Keast, HF Recher, H Ford and DA Saunders) pp. 309-321. RAOU and Surrey Beatty and Sons. Melbourne and Chipping Norton.